

Middletown Public Schools  
Middletown, Rhode Island

October 19, 2017

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

Members Present: Kellie DiPalma Simeone, Chairman  
Theresa Spengler, Vice-Chairman  
Douglas Arnold  
Liana Fenton  
William O'Connell

Also Present: Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools  
Linda Savastano, Assistant Superintendent  
Raquel Pellerin, Business Manager  
David Fontes, Director of Facilities/Safety and Transportation

The School Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by School Committee Chair Kellie DiPalma Simeone. All members were present. Administrative staff members present were Beth Hayes, Linda Beaupre, Donna Chelf, Gail Ponte, Stephen Ponte, and Michelle Fonseca.

**MOTION:** 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *To move the Gaudet Soccer agenda item up on the agenda.* Unanimous vote.

**MOTION:** 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee fully fund the Gaudet Boys' and Girls' soccer.* Unanimous vote.

Coach Christos Agoros spoke about the Gaudet Soccer Program. The club soccer team was approved by the School Committee in May 2009. The School Committee made a commitment to fully fund the program for the 2017-18 school year with savings realized from hiring and reducing other line items. Mr. Agoros thanked all for their support over the years.

Mrs. Spengler said that this is an amazing feeder program to get students ready for high school. The students benefit from the environment.

**MOTION:** 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *To move up Proclamations and Awards on the agenda.* Unanimous vote.

**PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS**

- Student Awards
- Champions for Children – The School Committee recognized Camille Guerin, Keri-Ann McLaughlin, Joanne Reilly-Chaves, and Christa Robinson for their efforts to make “Ramon’s Retreat” a reality. They engaged the community to

have a special place at Forest Avenue School to remember classmate Ramon Arroyo.

### SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

#### *“Grade 6 Design and Modeling STEM Class”*

STEM Teacher Stephanie Racine introduced students who described their project making a boot cast. Students explained the criteria and how they built their boot. They first created drawings. Students had to walk down a red carpet to show how the boot worked. They had to identify their own strengths and weaknesses and learn to work together as a group. PLTW takes real world situations and brings them into the classroom.

### STUDENT GOVERNMENT

No “Student Government” for October 19, 2017.

### INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- Gaudet Student Handbook
- Gaudet newsletter
- Information on Susanne Suprock being named RI Art Association Outstanding Art Educator of the Year and Secondary Art Educator of the Year
- Donation letters

### CORRESPONDENCE

**Correspondence of Sarah Markey, NEARI**, regarding negotiating a successor agreement to the current contract, which expires on August 31, 2018.

**MOTION**: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *To receive the correspondence.* Unanimous vote.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments on agenda items.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION:** 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *To approve the Consent Agenda.*  
Unanimous vote.

- Approval of Vouchers

<b>September Vouchers</b>		
<b>Voucher Number</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Total</b>
1050	9/5/2017	\$22,892.91
1049	9/5/2017	\$308,853.37
1048	9/5/2017	\$136,369.67
1051	9/12/2017	\$243,244.36
1059	9/22/2017	\$162,910.75
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$874,271.06</b>

- Approval of Vendors/Purchases over \$5,000
- Approval of Minutes
  - Minutes of September 12, 2107 Special School Committee Meeting
  - Minutes of September 21, 2017 School Committee Meeting
- Superintendent’s Recommendation on Personnel

**SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL**

**APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 20, 2017**

Gerald Haas	Mathematics Teacher, Middletown High School
Maureen Clark	Reading/Literacy Consultant (Short-Term)
Jillian Moreira	Data Support Teacher Assistant, J.H. Gaudet School

**MHS ADVISOR APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 20, 2017**

Kimberly Pine	Student Council Advisor
Kimberly Pine	Student Activities Coordinator
Liana Fenton	US First Robotics Advisor
David Fontaine	Virtual High School Coordinator
David Fontaine	Mock Trial Advisor
Jennifer Vaillancourt	Choral Director
Jennifer Vaillancourt	All-State Choral Director
Kevin Zahm	Fall & Spring Dramatics Director
Christopher Richards	Tempo Director
Stephen Fagan	Math League Advisor
Jennifer Haskell	Senior Class Co-Advisor
Lauren Marx	Senior Class Co-Advisor

Rachelle Myllamaki	Junior Class Co-Advisor
Megan Sparadeo	Junior Class Co-Advisor
Rebecca Kilbey	Sophomore Class Co-Advisor
Beatrice Casaula	Sophomore Class Co-Advisor
Eric Wright	Freshman Class Co-Advisor
Maria Dowler	Freshman Class Co-Advisor
Anita DeLima	Community Service Advisor
Lisa O'Brien	Newspaper Advisor
Gail Sullivan-McCune	Ten 80 Club Co-Advisor
Allen Waite	Ten 80 Club Co-Advisor
John Cunic	Model UN Director
Phillip Statser	All-State Band Director
Phillip Statser	Band Director
Maria Dowler	Yearbook Advisor

**J.H. GAUDET SCHOOL ADVISOR APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 20, 2017**

Jill Armstrong	Art Club Co-Advisor
Jonathan Paquette	Art Club Co-Advisor
Heidi Gauch	Student Council Advisor
Joshua Beagan	Robotics Club Advisor
Paula Guarino	Yearbook Advisor

**RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 8, 2017**

Maureen West	District/School Administrative Support Personnel C
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**OLD BUSINESS**

- Impact Fees - Two projects identified were community auditorium and developing space for universal preschool. It was possible that the projects could have met the criteria, but would only be one quarter of impact fees set aside. The criteria is based on increased student enrollment, which has been steady with no significant growth.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

No "New Business" for October 19, 2017.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **504 POLICY, 2<sup>nd</sup> READING**

**MOTION:** 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve the 504 Policy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading.* Unanimous vote.

### **DEAN OF STUDENTS - HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL JOB DESCRIPTION, 1<sup>st</sup> READING**

**MOTION:** 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve the Dean of Students - High School and Middle School Job Description, 1<sup>st</sup> Reading.* Unanimous vote.

These positions have been posted and interviews will be held shortly.

### **HOME SCHOOLING**

**MOTION:** 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve Home Schooling 17-18-01.* Unanimous vote.

### **BUDGET CALENDAR**

**MOTION:** 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee approve the Budget Calendar for 2018-2019.* Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Kraeger has met with the Town Finance Director and Town Administrator to develop a preliminary budget calendar. There will be a budget kickoff with administrators on November 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **IMPACT FEES**

**MOTION:** 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee inform the Town Council that the School Department does not meet the criteria for accessing the current impact fees.* Unanimous vote.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- **Curriculum** - Mrs. Savastano reported that the first PD Day was held on September 29<sup>th</sup>. A survey was distributed to get feedback. Ninety responses were received, with an average rating of 4.64 out of 5. The next PD Day on October 27<sup>th</sup> will have a similar format and will be held at Kickemuit Middle School in Bristol. Middletown and Bristol

teachers will be hosting breakout sessions. Dr. Rachon Richards be the keynote speaker. The School Committee is welcome to attend. The van Buren Charitable Foundation is funding the day. Mrs. Savastano thanked all for their support with the digital transformation.

- **Financial** – Ms. Pellerin reported that the annual audit begins on October 30<sup>th</sup>. UCOA, the transparency portal, and school lunch will be audited. A student could be shadowed through the lunch line.

Line item amendments have been put on hold. We are waiting for new positions and grants to be finalized. Amendments will be brought back at the November School Committee Meeting.

A preliminary meeting has been held with the Town Administrator and Town Finance Director. They have approved the budget module for Open Government. Merging the document has been difficult and time consuming. The Budget Calendar is starting earlier because there are targets that have to be met.

Impact Aid forms went home on Monday. They are due back by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Mrs. Simeone asked if we utilize the military liaison to assist in having all the forms returned.

RIDE has released very preliminary numbers on State Aid. Middletown is scheduled to lose about \$116K. We are currently in year 8 of the funding formula.

- **Facilities** – Mr. Fontes reported that the Town invited the School Department to attend the Town Council Meeting to update the Council on bond projects. There has been a great deal of savings performing work in-house. Projects include bookcases, painting, and ductwork. Approximately \$2.6 million of the \$10 million bond has been completed. Roof work is being completed. The upcoming bond projects are estimates at Stage II. The architectural engineer bid has been awarded for the next round. It came in at 6%. The bid packages for upcoming projects need to get out by January. The Stage II projects include the Gaudet School entrance reconfiguration and Gaudet School window replacement. These projects will have to begin in the spring to be completed by the start of school in September 2018. As soon as a schematic design is developed, stakeholder meetings will be held with staff.

A kick-off classroom redesign lean team meeting was held. All schools were represented and staff were engaged. Lean tools and process was reviewed. At the next meeting a matrix will be decided on. Students will attend the next session on November 16.

- **Other** - The MIC3 Annual Meeting will be held in Rhode Island on October 25 - 27, 2017. The Commissioner will attend. The opening reception will be held on Wednesday. The Middletown High School Select Chorus will perform at the reception. There will be a panel consisting of parents from Newport, Middletown and Jamestown.

**MOTION:** 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *That the School Committee receive the Superintendent's Reports.* Unanimous vote.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

- Mr. Arnold commended football coach Arthur Bell for putting Barry Clark's number on the football helmets.

**MOTION:** 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *To go into Executive Session 42-46-5 (a) 3 regarding safety plans at 6:52 p.m.* Unanimous vote.

**ADJOURN FROM MEETING**

**MOTION:** 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. *To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 7:10 p.m.* Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger  
Superintendent of Schools